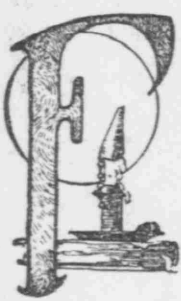


DISTINGUISHED WOMEN WRITERS STARTLE WORLD

With Four New Books

Marie Corelli and Duchess of Buckingham Set Forth Their Views on Pertinent Topics in a Vigorous Way That Will Make People Think.

By LENA M. RICHARDSON.



FOLLOWING close upon the heels of Elinor Glyn's "Three Weeks" comes "Holy Orders," a new novel by Marie Corelli, which has created a positive sensation because of its directness in dealing with a subject now agitating the civilized world. Miss Corelli does not mince matters and writes with a bluntness which nearly carries the breath away.

Startling books, by women of title, books that will cause the reading world to gossip perhaps as never before; books that have a vim and a go to them, that abound in heart throbs, striking situations, and center about live people, have been spread open during the last few weeks for the delectation of those who delight in the fiction world.

Since the advent of Mrs. Glyn's "Three Weeks" perhaps there has not been such striking literature given to a thirsting public. It is of the kind that, regardless of the individual reader as to its desirability, causes comment; and comment favorable or unfavorable, is the thing in the book world.

"Holy Orders" is soon to be followed by two others, written by the Duchess of Buckingham and Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont. That they are eagerly awaited goes without saying.

THE salons of these cultured women of fashion are the meeting places of the most brilliant literary lights of this generation; and no meeting is left without a discussion of the thrilling books with which we are startled today.

Problem plays have no such hold on the intellectual world as some of the fascinating stories, scintillating with wit, humor, and a versatility that makes even an unadmirable and base London sit up and take notice.

The women who have entered the literary world are with a few exceptions women of birth, breeding, education, social standing, and sufficient means not to make it a pecuniary matter with them. In nearly every instance it has been to portray the social, political, religious, or financial world with the mask off. When each book had been given advance notice the European world shook in its shoes until the book was out; its most serious exposes known and then they drew a long sigh of relief. None of these writers follow the same style. Some write of the lower classes and others take their immediate surroundings. One of the most prominent writers takes her stories from the humbler characters of life; principally of the working world.

Several of these writers have written satires on the political side. And the very fact that English and foreign women generally play so large a part in the political elections of their countries, makes us feel we are getting the cold truth in a practical way. One writer specially seems to deal with the fluctuating religious world of Europe. Some of her books poking fun, others gently satirical, but the most a severe rebuke upon an unreliable religious world.

Begin by Queen Victoria.

When Queen Victoria was living she started the fad of writing. Her literary aspirations ranged mostly to a line of gentle poetry, and one story entitled, "Leaves from a Highland Journal," being principally a resume of her trips to Scotland. But the Queen of Roumania took up her peasant life in which she is so much interested. She wrote to them with an art which appealed irresistibly. Always the simple mind loves the fairy story and her book—"A Real Queen's Fairy Book"—"Shadows on Life's Dial," "Thoughts of a Queen," and many similar novelettes, fairy stories, and drawing-room dramas came from the pen of this writer. At present she is not sending anything out, but devoting all of her time to the school for the blind in which she is so much interested. So clever were her stories that people of all countries have found them appealing, with

her exquisite picture drawing and her hidden morals so simple that a child could devise them.

The first among the duchesses of England to appear in the literary world was the talented Duchess of Sutherland, who is distinguished in many ways. She is a beautiful woman who dispenses hospitality at what is called one of the finest private residences in Europe, and so widespread is her philanthropy that she is known as the "Charity Duchess."

Her novel, "One Hour and the Next," was her most serious and startling work.

Books of Duchess of Leeds.

The Duchess of Leeds was the next to show real literary talent among the titled women. Unfortunately her delicate health makes it impossible for her to do a great quantity of writing. Her first important effort was a novel entitled "A Lover of the Beautiful." It scored a distinct success and gave the impression that even better work was to follow. This was duly confirmed when her second book appeared, a volume of short stories with an old title, "Capricious." Strangely enough most of these stories were of the humbler life and differed to a very large extent with the writing of another brilliant artist, Marie Corelli, who came into notice about this time. Miss Corelli has written mostly about the phenomenal and religious world.

Her "Romance of Two Worlds," "Ardath," "Wormwood," "Sorrows of Satan" (which last book set London on fire at the time of its publication), and "Vendetta," cannot unfavorably be compared with the book which appeared last week in the literary world entitled "Holy Orders." This time she seeks another range and seems to deal largely with the drink question and the much-mooted question whether a minister can give his best efforts to the church married or unmarried. In one of the sermons which a distinguished character the Rev. Everton delivers, she roundly scores the mode of present day living, taking the Salome dance, the studio revels of young actresses and the scandal of the bridge whist parties to task.

Occupies Peculiar Position.

Miss Corelli occupies a peculiar position in the literary world in so much as she is absolutely indifferent to its disapproval. For years she has been discussed, abused, condemned, praised, and adored by millions of readers. In appearance she is short, slight and fair, with a dainty figure and marvelously fascinating eyes, out of which beam an intelligence that is rarely found. Her enormous vitality is felt in every line of her writing and her ability to stem the howling storm

which she creates among the critics only proves her unquestioned standing in the eyes of the intellectual world.

Unlike this brilliant author another genius of a widely different class appears. Elinor Glyn who appeared upon the literary horizon in the spring with her famous book "Three Weeks."

"The Forbidden Road."

This writer produced a series of impressions which would do credit to a cinematograph. Mrs. Glyn is an English beauty, tall erect and graceful with wonderfully arched eyebrows over pale blue eyes, a rich pink complexion and a wealth of gorgeous auburn hair. Her book attracted the attention of the world by its unusualness. Its style was severely criticised and from this point Mrs. Glyn took issue claiming that her talent differed from others and was God-given one and, to quote her, "That she writes of God's laws rather than man's laws." The criticism was not of the quality but of the class. She has stated that we may shortly expect another book of an entirely different style.

Mme. Albani, an English woman with an Italian name, is another writer who has attracted unusual attention. She has a most remarkable career and her stories burst upon a base public in such a way as to make even staid English critics prophesy a new literary genius in the fame-world. Her latest book "The Forbidden Road," produces a most thrilling effect. At once we are upon a high sea of excitement and when with grim vividness she relates scene after scene of a "Dante-like" character, the public is indescribably fascinated. She is intensely interested in America and the American people and finds much to please and appeal to her here. Clear cut, artistic and fascinating in style her writings have found their way most readily in the foremost ranks of contemporary fiction.

Side by side with this comes Mrs. Humphrey Ward's new story, "Diana Maletory." This writer has given us "Lady Rose," "The Marriage of William Ashe," and others, but at no time has she so distinguished herself for her descriptive character building as in this book. While at all times in writing she deals largely with the political situation of England, in this story she goes more fully into details, and we are cognizant of a condition of affairs which is most unusual.

Another Duchess Author.

Right in the wake of this story comes the thrilling novel by her Grace

of Buckingham. All London and the military set are on edge, as she has given to the reading public a little more than they ever anticipated. Her grace had already published two works of travel and a book of children's stories.

But this is her first real novel, the title being "Pervala of the Black Watch; a Tale of Two Rivers," and is dedicated "To the memory of my kinsmen in the Highland Brigade." It is a stirring story of military life, the "Black Watch" being the name of a

famous Highland regiment, the old Forty-Second Royal Highlanders.

The duchess comes of a brilliant family, and takes her place in the literary world with a grace that is only equaled by her social charms. She plays contemporary to the clever Duchess of Devonshire, who has edited some interesting "Letters of One of Her Ancestors." The Duchess of Somerset has proved her ability also as a clever writer in her "Impressions of a Tenderfoot." She relates her experi-

ences in the Far West with a grim sort of humor.

Lady Randolph Churchill (now Mrs. Cornwallis West) took rather a serious vein when she wrote and handed to an admiring audience something of a history in the Anglo-Saxon Review, and several other articles of a like character.

The beautiful Countess of Warwick has really an uncommon gift for writing, but her many other activities, of which the public has heard so much,

have prevented her from publishing many books, and her only works, aside from her magazine articles, are her "History of Warwick Castle and Its Earls" and "Reminiscences of Joseph Arch."

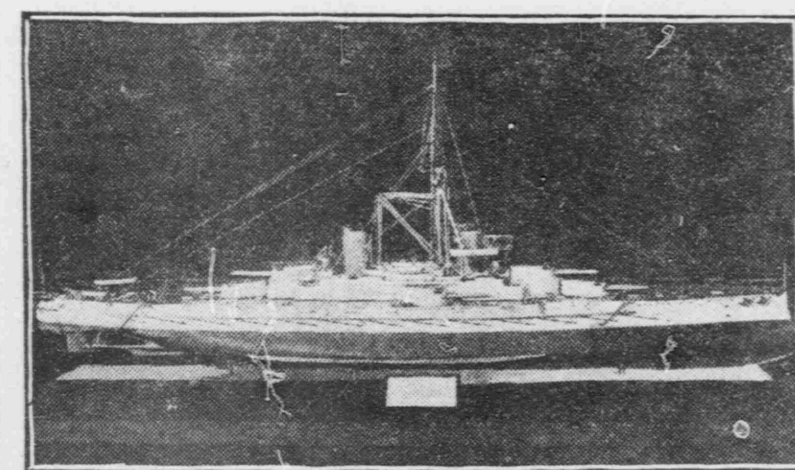
Other Noted Writers.

Among other titled women who have appeared to an advantage in the literary circle is the Countess of Cromartie, whose short stories, called "End of the Song," proved exceedingly attractive. The Countess of Pembroke, sister of the Duchess of Leeds, is represented by only one book—an account of "Wilton House," her husband's splendid place near Salisbury, which is famous for its literary associations. There Sir Philip Sidney wrote his "Arcadia," and near by, on the banks of the river Nadder, Isaac Walton composed his famous story, "A Complete Angler."

Among the group we find Lady Violet Greville, Lady Henry Somerset, Lady Margaret Sackville, Lady Lugare, Lady Helen Forbes, and many others who have contributed in various ways and in varying degrees of merit. Others have tried their hands at poetry, and still others at dramas, but none have been able to prove so fascinating and thrilling as her Grace of Buckingham and Marie Corelli. As a result of this literary fever among the titled women one finds others of a lower station in life taking their cue and proving that brains as well as brawn exist among the middle classes. The intellectual thinking world today demands that a book shall be a clean clear-cut artistic and reliable work, and then it holds its place among the writers who have long since passed to their last account.

WHICH GREAT POWER

Will Get These Three Battleships of Brazil?



Brazil's Dreadnaught.

SPECULATION is still at fever heat over the ultimate fate of the three great Brazilian battleships nearing completion in England. The Sao Paulo, building at the shipyard of Vickers, Sons & Maxim will be ready for commission in March and the Rio Janeiro and the Minas Geraes will be launched not long after. Why Brazil should want such boats, the largest and most powerful ships in the world, has been a mystery for a long time, and is every moment becoming a matter for international discussion.

There is, of course, one very good reason why Brazil should not own boats of the enormous tonnage—13,500—which these ships will possess. There are only two harbors in Brazil which

could accommodate such big ships. These ports are Rio de Janeiro and Bahia. In the latter, there is only one anchorage for a 13,000-ton ship, this place being a particular portion of the harbor just opposite the city proper. Certainly no such ships could maneuver in Bahia harbor. Then, again, Brazil has no drydock to accommodate any such ships. They would be exposed most of the time on a dangerous lee shore, with no possibility of repair in case of accident. These reasons are considered by several naval experts as amply sufficient to discredit all the assertions which have been made as to Brazil herself retaining these ships.

Setting aside the idea that these ships are for Brazilian use, it is in-

teresting to note that one of the chief naval authorities in England recently announced, when questioned in parliament concerning these ships, "that England had full cognizance of them, and was keeping her eye on them."

The three new Brazilian warships will surpass anything at present in the British navy. While the famous Dreadnaught is only 17,500 tons, the Minas Geraes—one of the Brazilians—is more than 13,500 ranking with the British St. Vincent. All of the new warships will develop a speed of twenty-one knots, and each will carry a tremendously strong armament. Each vessel will have twelve 12-inch guns of the latest British type. This will make the largest main armament of any vessel at present on the seas.

For secondary armament each ship will carry twenty-two 4.7-inch guns and eight three-pounders. The main armament will be in four turrets on the center line and two turrets on the broadside. Each vessel will have the astonishing broadside delivery of ten 12-inch guns, throwing 8,500 tons of metal per minute—equal to the total tonnage of many a good-sized vessel, in itself.

CHRONICLINGS.

Faith is a prophet's rod.

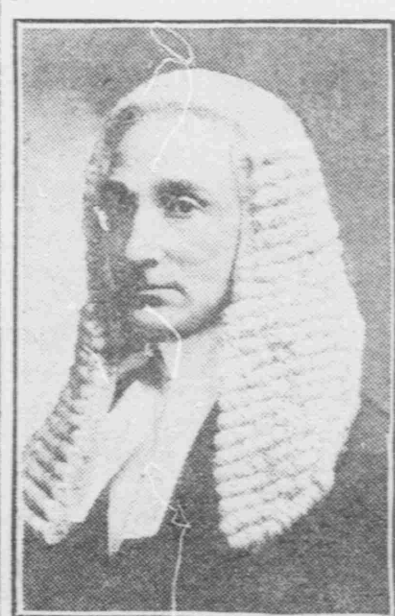
Too often money picks the lock of the law.

The best and the worst of men are self-made or self-married.

The altruist converses; the egoist preaches himself by prating.

Hope is a Golconda mine; it bestows upon the riches of the Rand.—Hous-

Rise of Whittaker Wright's Nemesis



Rufus Isaacs, K. C., M. P.

SO RAPID and steady has been the rise within recent years of Rufus Isaacs, K. C., M. P., that it is now said in well-informed circles that he is in receipt of the largest income in the history of the English bar. Certainly, he is one of the ablest and at the same time the hardest worker of the brilliant counsels of the day, and being a member of parliament and a favorite with the powers-that-be in politics it is con-

sidently predicted that he will some day, in the not very distant future, become lord chancellor of England, the first Hebrew to occupy that exalted position.

Americans will perhaps remember that it was Isaacs who successfully prosecuted Whittaker Wright, the greatest "frenzied finance" expert that ever operated in England, who fled to the United States when his various notations began to collapse, and after a vain attempt to resist extradition, threw up the sponge and returned to London to stand his trial. The burly financier had so many peers and younger sons of eminent families involved with him that he was sure of acquittal, and it was only the unruffled, incisive cross-examination of Rufus Isaacs that broke down his defense and sealed his doom. And it was within a few feet of Isaacs that Wright drank poison and died from its effects rather than spend the comparatively short term to which he had been sentenced to prison.

In the Wright trial Isaacs showed a wonderful mastery of the intricate figures, and that same mastery has always been one of the outstanding features of his mental make-up. It has made him almost indispensable to the large business houses of England in cases of litigation, and it is seldom that any important case comes to trial in these days that the brilliant Jewish advocate is not engaged. He is in such great demand that solicitors, with enormous retaining fees in their hands, are constantly turned away from his office.

A RARITY.

"You bet he's a queer fellow." "As to how?" "I actually had to question him to find out that he spent his vacation in Europe."